

Jess Willard and Jack Johnson Are in Perfect Physical Condition

ALL IS READY FOR BIG BOUT

And Both Champion and Challenger Are Confident of Victory.

HAVANA, April 3.—Forty-eight hours before their battle for the heavyweight championship of the world Jack Johnson and Jess Willard were declared to be in as nearly perfect physical condition as their systems of training could accomplish. They are fit to fight for their lives, they say, and will step into the ring Monday afternoon ready for the struggle whether it be short and fierce or drawn out to the limit of endurance.

There is ten years difference in the age of the two men; Willard not only is the younger but has the better of the height and reach. However, Johnson is exceedingly muscular and will weigh more than he did in any previous fight.

Expert opinion supports the belief that it will either be a very short fight or a very long one. In the past it has been Johnson's policy to have his opponent come to him. It is thought possible that on Monday he may change his tactics and rush, figuring on getting past Willard's comparatively mediocre defense for a knockout, while he is strong and fresh. If this is impossible he is likely to resort to a crafty wearing down system.

Willard's best chance to win lies in a terrific smash landed in a mix-up in the early rounds or the slow grueling of the older man although in the latter case much depends on the virtually unknown ability of both to stand punishment, such as only these giants can deal.

There is less actual betting on this contest than on any similar match in years. There are so many uncertainties to consider that the big bettors are doubtful where to put their money.

PLAYERS PROTEST

Tri-State League Men Will Not Be Traded by Owners of Disbanded League.

LANCASTER, Pa., April 3.—The efforts of several clubs of the disbanded Tri-State League to sell contracts of the players after the league had decided to consider the players free agents will lead to protests on the part of the players. Allentown disposed of practically its whole team in this way an owner of them, Dan McClenham, who had been released to Manchester, already has taken his case in his own hands by repudiating the transfer and signing a contract with Topeka. The players will claim the right to sign where they please at their own terms.

RICKEY CAN'T HAVE EITHER ONE.

CHICAGO, Ill., April 2.—A report from St. Louis that Manager Rickey of the Browns desires either Brief or Fournier from the White Sox is not denied, but it is said there is no prospect of him getting either player now. Brief is depended on to play first base for the Sox, but should he fail, Fournier will be used and the club can not afford to dispose of either player until it is determined which one is needed most.

Pirates to Meet Reds In First Game at Home

President Tener, of National League, to Be among the Notables Present.

The Pirates will open their season at home this year on Thursday, April 22, the Cincinnati Reds, with Manager Herzog, Tommy Leach and Charley Doolin in their lineup, being the visitors who will help blow the lid off at Forbes Field on that date. According to the war correspondents at the training camp, Manager Clarke has gathered about him this year a bunch of the fastest youngsters that has represented Pittsburgh since Dreyfuss and Clarke came to the Smoky City back in 1909. Bobby Seagun, Walter Gerber, Bill Hinckman, Douglas Baird, Paddy Siglin and Dan Costello have all shown up in great form, and with Wagner, Gibson, Carey and Viox to steady them, Forbes Field patrons are to be treated to some of the fastest, scrappiest baseball it has been their pleasure to witness since the halcyon days of Clarke, Wagner and Leach, and local fans are up on their toes to get a peek at the new lineup in action. With the Cincinnati club stronger this season than it has been for many years, containing in its lineup such stars as Herzog, Leach, and Doolin, the opening game will be inaugurated with the usual ceremonies. President Tener of the National League, being among the notables who will be present.

One of the novelties being offered Pittsburghers, and which will no doubt reach surrounding towns quickly, is a moving picture of the Pirates' training trip. An enterprising movie operator from the Photoplay Entertainment Company of Pittsburgh followed the Buccaneers all the way from Pittsburgh to Dawson Springs and then on to Hot Springs, and has secured films that are said to be the most complete ever taken of a big

FIRST UNUSUAL EVENT OF THE 1915 SEASON.

When the unusual feats of 1915 in base ball are compile, the performance of Chief Willson, of the Cardinals, in Austin, Tex., the other day should not be overlooked. Austin is the chief's home town, and the natives thought they would celebrate his appearance in a game there by presenting him with a chest of silver. Did Chief Willson respond in conventional manner by striking out? Not in a million years. Instead he knocked the ball over the fence for a homer, and for even more applause than when the silver was lugged out to him.

GOLFERS

From England Will Compete in Tournament to Be Held in June.

Although it was rumored that none of the English professional golfers would visit America this year it seems to be a certainty that in addition to Harry Vardon, who has decided to play here, at least three or four others will come over in time to take part in the open tournament at Baltusol, Short Hills, N. J., next June. Edward Ray, James Brad, George Duncan and J. H. Taylor are expected to make the trip and their coming will be welcomed by golfers everywhere in this country where the game is making wonderful progress. Frances Ouimet, the national champion, gained an international reputation two years ago when he defeated Vardon and Ray in the play off of the famous "triple tree" for the United States Golf Association open championship over the links of the Country Club, Brookline, Mass., with a brilliant round of 72, Vardon being second with 77 and Ray third with 78. The possibilities of history repeating itself with these three players taking part in this year's "open" should make the event one of the most attractive and interesting golf classics that ever has been decided over the beautiful New Jersey course.

MANAGER

For Teams in New York State League Have All Been Named.

SARANTON, Pa., April 3.—The list of managers for New York State League teams has been completed by the naming of Catcher Edward McDonough to lead Utica and Infielder Joseph O'Rourke from the Buffalo International League club. He formerly managed the Wilkesbarre team in the New York State League with William Clymer, ten manager of Buffalo, who has resigned, and also has played with Albany and had trials with the St. Louis Nationals and Boston Americans.

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DAVIS CUP

Lawn Tennis Trophy Will Not Be Played for This Year on Account of the War.

The decision of the United States National Lawn Tennis Association not to issue a challenge to Australasia this year for the Davis cup, on account of the war, is applauded by the Antipodeans generally as "sportsmanship of the highest degree." Had a challenger been forthcoming it would almost certainly result in the United States recovering the trophy, because Australasia would have been without the services of the New Zealanders, Anthony F. Wilding and the Australian, Norman Brookes. Wilding is with the British army in Europe and Brookes, who is back home in Melbourne, has stated that he will not participate in any international contest during the war. Therefore Australasia in the event of a challenger would have had little chance against any American team which was at all representative.

IRELAN GOES TO MONTREAL.

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla., April 3.—Manager Moran of the Phillies has announced the release of Infielder Harold Irelan to the Montreal Club of the International League.

Pirates May be Surprise of National League in 1915



PITTSBURGH, Pa., April 3.—Ideal weather through their training trip has given the Pittsburgh Pirates a good start on the 1915 season and Pirate fans are hoping for the best. The feeling is general in Pittsburgh that the team can't do worse than they did last season when after a spectacular and glorious getaway they collapsed in the most dismal fashion and spent the rest of the year in a state of coma.

Hans Wagner has been the surprise of the early season. He has been pounding the ball in his most Hans Wagnerish manner and dashing about the park with the vim of a mere youth. Just where Wagner will appear in the lineup has not been agreed as yet, but it is certain that if his batting continues he will again be a regular performer throughout the season in spite of his comparative senility. It seems it will have to be another year at least before the critics can kill him off.

Fred Clarke's attitude when approached by the press and questioned as to the Pirates' chances this summer has been exceedingly laconic. He's unwilling to make any sort of statement. He has said nothing at all. He is wise to let the opinion prevail that the Pirates may show all the opposition a succession of startling surprises.

Gerber, the Columbus recruit, has shown promises at short and around second and Johnston will almost certainly hold down first. This makes the disposition of Wagner a matter of conjecture, but Fred Clarke is more than likely capable of arranging the things by the time the season opens.

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Exhibition Baseball

At Chattanooga	R. H. E.
Chattanooga	1 5 3
Cincinnati	5 2 0
At Louisville	R. H. E.
Detroit, American	14 16 0
Louisville	8 11 3
At Beaumont, Tex.	R. H. E.
New York Nationals	6 8 3
Beaumont	2 11 2
At Fort Worth, Tex.	R. H. E.
Chicago, Americans	3 6 1
Fort Worth	2 7 5
At Atlanta	R. H. E.
Atlanta	8 8 2
Boston National	3 5 1
At Birmingham	R. H. E.
Chicago, Nationals	4 8 2
Birmingham	2 5 1
At St. Louis	R. H. E.
St. Louis Nationals	2 6 1
St. Louis Americans	1 9 1
At New Orleans	R. H. E.
Pittsburgh Nationals	3 13 3
Cleveland, Americans	4 10 2
At Memphis	R. H. E.
Boston Americans	7 15 3
Memphis	2 3 3

Surprises Teammates by Speedy Recovery; Benz Ready for Battle

LOS ANGELES, Cal., April 3.—Joe Benz's rapid return to shape has been the most remarkable feature of the Sox training trip. Today he is further advanced than the Sox officials had expected by July 1. He is almost ready to pitch a complete game without extending his strength.

They are always boasting of their climate out here in Los Angeles and they have a brag coming in the case of Benz. When he came to California a few weeks ago it was as a physical wreck. Six weeks in bed this winter suffering with typhoid fever had about sapped his vitality. He was a ghost of himself when the squad reached Paso Robles and found him there trying to build up his system.

When Benz came down here with the regulars he still was weak and could stand little exertion. Towards the end of the stay he overworked and had to lay off for three days. Then came the change. He felt better when he switched over to the Yannisians. His condition was so much improved that he asked leave to work in the first game played at Venice. What he did there is now a matter of record. Only one scratch hit in five innings was nicked off him by the slugging Tigers. This hit came because Bobby Roth was not accustomed to play second base.

It was feared that Joe had tried to do too much. After the game he said he felt fine. "I was almost afraid to let loose, I felt so good," he said. "I actually tried out my splitter and it broke sharp and fast. That encouraged me. I had lots of smoke and my control absolutely surprised me."

Four or five days later Benz pitched six innings against Los Angeles here. He left the game with the Sox ahead, 9 to 4. What followed was not his fault. In this battle he showed more improvement and could easily have finished, but didn't care to overdo.

Not one has he complained of feeling badly. "My appetite is fine and I weigh 190 pounds right now," he says. "This is what I weigh when in best shape and I hope I don't gain any more. Last year I was more than 200 pounds."

Manager Rowlands, while at Paso Robles, had believed Benz would only

be used the greater part of the year to pitch to batters. Instead he finds he is going to have one of the best pitchers in the country in shape to work his turn. This greatly strengthens the Sox chances this season.



Joe Benz.

SOME ENTHUSIASM IN TORONTO.

TORONTO, Can., April 3.—If any doubts remained as to the interest in baseball in Toronto they were dispelled with the announcement that a body of fans had engaged a special train to make the trip to Richmond for the opening of the International League season.

OPENING GAME HERE SATURDAY

DISCOVERING ANOTHER COBB DIFFICULT TASK.

We often hear it said of a runner that he is showing more promise than did John Paul Jones at the same stage of his development, or of a ball player that he has the earmarks of another Ty Cobb; but the fulfillment of this promise is another thing. Some men develop to a certain point and then stop. There are men who are whirlwinds in minor league baseball, but that is their limit; they are tried in the major; found wanting and go back to "burn up" the minors again.

BOSTON MARATHON

Will Be Held in Two Weeks over the Ashland-Boston Course.

After a brilliant season of indoor athletics the arrival of the time for outdoor competitions is gladly welcomed by the amateurs, many of whom have acquired themselves more than creditably during the winter months. Boston's big marathon, the nineteenth annual running of which will be decided over the Ashland-Boston course, two weeks hence will be the first of the great outdoor events of the season. The Patriot's day class will furnish an additional incentive for distance runners this year as the winner will be enabled to take part in the Panama-Pacific marathon at San Francisco next September free of expense. The Boston Athletic Association in addition to the cup prize, will donate a sufficient sum to cover the traveling and other expenses of the victor to the Pacific coast and return and to the second runner the allowance of one hundred dollars will be made toward giving him a chance to compete in the California race. Should the board of governors of the Amateur Athletic Union adopt the rule, recently recommended by the general and athletic rules committee, prohibiting marathons runners from receiving coaching assistance or refreshments during a race, in accordance with the federation rule, it may have a deterrent effect on some of the intending competitors and consequently greatly reduce the size of the field which otherwise gives promise this year of being the largest in the history of the event.

YALE CREWS

Wins Both Events from Pennsylvania Crews on the Schuylkill River.

PHILADELPHIA, April 3.—Under weather conditions probably never before braved in a rowing race by youthful sweep oarsmen of American colleges, Yale today won both the varsity and junior eight-oared events from the University of Pennsylvania over the one mile, 500 yard course on the Schuylkill river. Each of the New Haven crews finished two lengths in the lead.

VARSITY TEAM WINS TWELVE INNING GAME

Pitching of Fulton of the State Team is Responsible for Victory.

MORGANTOWN, April 3.—West Virginia evaded up with Ohio University today, defeating it six runs to eight in twelve innings. The game in reality was over in the ninth, when the Varsity scored the tying and the winning run, but Coach Hickman upset all college ethics when he declared a varsity man out at first who had been called safe by the umpire, Fulton, for the Varsity established a strike-out record, having nineteen in eleven innings. Hersey, Ayers and Finsterwald each had three hits.

The score:
OHIO U. R. H. P. A. E.
Bash, c-f-b. 2 1 11 0 0
C. M. Potts, 3b. 0 1 1 3 0
Fulton, 1b-c. 0 0 4 1 1
Finsterwald, c. 0 1 5 1 0
Sechrist, r-f. 0 0 1 4 0
R. Finsterwald, ss. 1 3 2 5 1
Hendrickson, p-2b-cf. 1 2 1 0
Chapman, p-r-f. 1 1 0 0 0

Totals. 5 9 39 17 3
W. V. U. R. H. P. A. E.
Hersey, c-f. 0 3 1 0 0
Leatherwood, 2b. 0 1 2 1 3
Stoops, 1f. 1 0 1 0 0
Bachman, rf. 1 0 0 0 0
Simon, 1b. 1 0 1 0 0
Ayers, r-f. 2 3 0 2 0
Smith, 3b. 0 1 3 0 1
xx Flynn, p. 0 0 0 0 0
Fiddler, c. 0 1 7 0 0
Morrow, ss. 0 1 1 1 1
Fulton, p. 1 2 0 2 0
Hoffman, p. 0 0 0 0 0

Totals. 6 4 36 13 5
a—Two out when winning run was scored.
x—Run for Bachman in twelfth inning.
x—Batted for Smith in twelfth inning.
Two base hits—Finsterwald, C.

Washington-Irving High School Team to Play Morgantown High.

Thirty-five of the most promising baseball players attending school at Washington Irving high school appeared at Union Park Saturday in answer to Coach Arnett's first call for baseball practice and from what the boys showed Saturday afternoon, although the weather was very cold, it is a sure bet that Washington Irving high nine will be among the leading high school teams in the state when the season ends in June.

Of last year's team, Captain "Mickey" McMillan, who has held down the short field position for three years, was out and showed more pep than ever before. White, who played the keystone sack last season, was also on the ground and promises to be even better than he was last season. McAndrew, Sutton and Barnes, who played infield positions last year, were out and indications point to a strong infield this season.

The most promising material for the outer garden is "Bizz" Dawson, who is a brother of John and "Cy" Dawson, who are well-known to local baseball fans, and as "Bizz" promises to be better than either of his brothers and has already played on several of the fastest independent and semi-professional teams in this section of the state. He will be a tower of strength to the outfield. Other outfield candidates are "Shorty" Garret who played left field on the team last year and Drummond who was a sub outfielder last season.

Has No Good Pitchers. Coach Arnett will have quite a little trouble with his pitchers and catchers but as he has a large number of new recruits who entered high school from the grammar grades who are promising young twirlers and catchers, it is thought that before the time for the opening game to be played, he will have this weakness exterminated.

New uniforms have been ordered and a complete new outfit will be had by every member of the squad when the season opens. The first game of the season is scheduled to be played at Union Park next Saturday afternoon and if weather conditions permit the fast Morgantown high school team will be here for the opening game of the season. As Morgantown has always had one of the strongest teams in the league all admirers of the high school boys will have an opportunity to see how the local bunch looks next Saturday afternoon.

Practice Every Day. Practice will be held every evening this week and when weather conditions are such that the boys cannot go to the park, Coach Arnett will work them in the gymnasium.

The complete schedule for the local team is as follows:
April 10—Morgantown high school at Union Park.
April 17—Mannington high school at Mannington.
April 24—Fairmont high school at Fairmont.
May 1—Morgantown high school at Morgantown.
May 8—Shinnston high school at Shinnston.
May 15—Fairmont high school at Union Park.
May 22—Mannington high school at Union Park.

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R. Finsterwald, ss. 1 3 2 5 1
Hendrickson, p-2b-cf. 1 2 1 0
Chapman, p-r-f. 1 1 0 0 0

Totals. 5 9 39 17 3
W. V. U. R. H. P. A. E.
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Leatherwood, 2b. 0 1 2 1 3
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Simon, 1b. 1 0 1 0 0
Ayers, r-f. 2 3 0 2 0
Smith, 3b. 0 1 3 0 1
xx Flynn, p. 0 0 0 0 0
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